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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of ) Examiner: Thuan D. Dang  
RONALD E. NICHOLS et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/925,391 ) Group Art Unit 1764  
Filed: August 9, 2001 ) Entitled:  
Atty Docket No.: 287122-00004-2 ) LOW ENERGY METHOD OF  
PYROLYSIS OF HYDROCARBON  
MATERIALS SUCH AS RUBBER

**February 25, 2003****Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC  
600 Grant Street, 44th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219****Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX NON FEE AMENDMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20231****RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT****RECEIVED  
MAR 10 2003  
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM**

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 18, 2002, in connection with the above-captioned application. The Office Action has been carefully reviewed, and the following response offered in an attempt to advance the case to allowance. Reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims in light of the following amendments and remarks is courteously requested. Please amend the captioned application as follows:

**In the claims:**

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1. (Amended) A low energy method of pyrolysis of hydrocarbon material comprising:
- providing said hydrocarbon material;
  - loading said hydrocarbon material into a reaction chamber;
  - adding a clay and metal dust catalyst to said reaction chamber, and